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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/031,824	01/18/2002	Juzer Jangbarwala	1693	5780

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TIMOTHY J MARTIN, PC  
9250 W 5TH AVENUE  
SUITE 200  
LAKEWOOD, CO 80226

EXAMINER

CINTINS, IVARS C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1724

DATE MAILED: 03/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/031,824

Applicant(s)

Jangbarwala

Examiner

Ivars Cintins

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— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11, 13-17, and 28-30 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10, 12, and 18-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other:

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The disclosure is objected to because Fig. 1 of the drawings incorrectly labels "waste draw cycle" 16 as a "BRINE DRAW CYCLE." Appropriate correction is required.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 18, 19 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as based on a disclosure which is not enabling. Claims 18, 19 and 21-24 fail to recite the apparently essential "rinse/brine refill cycle" (see the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10 of the specification; and Fig. 5); and therefore, these claims are not enabled by the disclosure. *In re Mayhew*, 527 F.2d 1229, 188 USPQ 356 (CCPA 1976).

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 10, 12 and 18-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The trademarks recited in claims 10

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and 12 are deemed to render these claims indefinite, because the formula or characteristics of a product may change from time to time, and yet it may continue to be sold under the same trademark. See M.P.E.P. § 608.01(v). Claim 18 is incomplete and indefinite because it is not clear that merely contacting the ion exchange resin with regenerant solution will displace a selected volume of water from the resin vessel and pass this water to a drain, as recited in step (c), last 2 lines, of this claim. Similarly, merely collecting the waste solution will not result in selective disposal of undesired ions via a processing device which is separate from a drainage line, as recited in step (d) of claim 18. Furthermore, claim 18 fails to recite the apparently essential rinse/brine refill step, as explained above. Moreover, the term "any" as recited in steps (a), (c), (e) and (g) of claim 27 is vague and indefinite as to the limitations intended because it appears that all of these fluids must at some point be present in the resin vessel in order to be removed therefrom in steps (b), (d), (f) and (h) of this claim.

Claims 1-9, 11, 13-17 and 28-30 are allowed because the references of record do not teach or fairly suggest a water softening system having a manifold of the type recited, such that between service cycles: displaced water is sent to a drain, waste solution is sent to a processing device and residual regenerant

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solution is returned to the regenerant reservoir. Claims 10, 12 and 18-27 would also be allowed if rewritten or amended to overcome the above rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Odland (U.S. Patent No. 3,977,968) discloses processing spent brine regenerant in a water softening system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to I. Cintins whose telephone number is (703) 308-3840. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

The fax phone numbers for this art unit are: (703) 872-9311 for "Official" faxes after Final Rejection; (703) 872-9310 for all other "Official" faxes; and (703) 872-9492 for "Draft" and other "Unofficial" faxes.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

I. Cintins  
March 15, 2003

*Ivars C. Cintins*  
**Ivars C. Cintins**  
**Primary Examiner**  
**Art Unit 1724**